



Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org

Mr. Ed Acosta • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2025
5:30 p.m.

The meeting was held at: **Boardroom, Santa Cruz County Office of Education**
400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Trustee Larson participated in the meeting via teleconference from the following location, which was open to the public: **421 Escalona Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Alternatively, the public was also able to join the live video-conference.

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

President Sanchez called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Trustees Present:

Abel Sanchez (President), Ed Acosta, Greg Larson (via videoconference), Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams

Staff Present:

Dr. Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Amanda Burnham, Troy Cope, Nick Ibarra, Michelle Kennedy, Melissa Lopez, Liann Reyes, Rebecca Olker, Shaelyn Plascencia, Dr. Marcia Russell, Ashley Selk, Verenise Valentin

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

Per AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions: just cause, or emergency circumstances.

No requests were made.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (Van Allen/Williams 6-0).

Ayes: Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marta Bulaich (Community Member) shared with the Board the Brown Act violations and concerns with the manner in which the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board operates.

5. BOARD ORGANIZATION

5.1 Nominations for the Vice President of the Board

Due to the resignation of former Vice President Estrada, the position of vice president is vacant. President Sanchez will call for nominations of the Vice President.

Trustee Larson and Trustee Van Allen nominated Trustee Williams.

5.2 Election of Board Vice President

A motion was made to elect Trustee Rachel Williams as Vice President (Larson/Van Allen 6-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

5.3 Appointment of Representative to the Santa Cruz County School Board Association (SCZCSBA)

Due to the resignation of former Vice President Estrada, the appointment of representative to the Santa Cruz County School Board Association position is vacant.

A motion was made to appoint Trustee Larson as Representative to the Santa Cruz County School Board Association (SCZCSBA) (Roth/Williams 6-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

5.4 Appointments to Standing Committees

5.4.1 Agenda Committee

President Sanchez appointed Trustee Williams to join the agenda committee.

5.5 Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees

The following committees have vacancies if trustees would like to join them.

5.5.1 Board Budget Committee

No change.

5.5.2 Policy Committee

No change.

5.5.3 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

No change.

5.5.4 Other committee(s) as determined

5.5.4.1 Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Position Review Committee

President Sanchez appointed Trustee Larson and Trustee Van Allen to the Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Position Review Committee.

5.5.4.2 Superintendent Compensation Review Committee

President Sanchez appointed Trustee Roth and Vice President Williams to the Superintendent Compensation Review Committee.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

6.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 17, 2025

6.0.2 Budget Revisions

6.0.3 Donations

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Williams/Van Allen 6-0).

Ayes: Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6.1 **DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)**

None.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

8. **REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

8.1 **Future Educators Summer Academy Presentation**

Troy Cope, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented the launch of the Future Educators Summer Academy with Special Education Teacher Amanda Burnham and student Alondra Ponce. This new countywide initiative was a four-week, paid summer program for high school juniors and seniors, designed to inspire interest in education careers. Participants engage in hands-on workshops, professional skill-building, and field experiences at Extensive Support Needs school sites. The program also provided mentorship, training, and employment opportunities to help build a diverse, community-rooted educator workforce for Santa Cruz County.

8.2 **K-16 Central Coast Regional Collaborative Presentation**

John Leopold, Director of the Central Coast K-16 Regional Collaborative, presented an overview of the Collaborative. This regional partnership unites K-12 schools, community colleges, CSU, UC, industry partners, non-profits, and local government agencies to address educational and workforce needs spanning early childhood through adult learning. The initiative emphasizes equity, college readiness, and career preparation as central priorities.

8.3 Soquel High School Special Education Project

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, and Ralph LeRoux, CEO/Principal of Stacked Inc., presented an update on the Soquel High School Special Education project. The presentation outlined the project scope, timelines, design elements, and anticipated outcomes, while highlighting key milestones achieved to date. Next steps and budget considerations were also reviewed.

9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

9.1 Resolution #25-30 Authorizing Filing Of Application(s) For State Allocation Board–Administered Programs On Or After October 31, 2024 For The Santa Cruz County Office Of Education

Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, Liann Reyes, presented Resolution #25-30, authorizing staff to file applications for eligibility determination, funding requests, and/or certification of information under State Allocation Board–administered programs, including the School Facility Program (SFP), for applications submitted on or after October 31, 2024.

As required by Education Code Section 17070.54, participation in the SFP necessitates a Governing Board–approved five-year school facilities master plan (or update) to be submitted to the Department of General Services within 90 days of notification by the Office of Public School Construction. Noncompliance may result in rescission of project funding.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-30 Authorizing Filing Of Application(s) For State Allocation Board–Administered Programs On Or After October 31, 2024 For The Santa Cruz County Office Of Education (Williams/Van Allen 6-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

9.2 Resolution #25-29 Authorizing Use Of Bridge Financing

A motion was made to table Resolution #25-29 Authorizing Use Of Bridge Financing and return this item to the agenda committee to bring forward at a later date (Van Allen/Roth 6-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

9.3 Resolution #25-31 Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15)

Greg Larson, Chair of the Community Outreach and Legislation Committee, presented Resolution #25-31 recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-31 Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15) (Larson/Williams 6-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

9.4 Resolution #25-32 Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Month

September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Month. Santa Cruz County Office of Education is committed to supporting the mental and emotional health of students and staff in Santa Cruz County.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-32 Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Month (Larson/Van Allen 6-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

County Superintendent Dr. Faris Sabbah provided an update on activities and matters of interest.

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

President Sanchez:

He attended board meeting management software demo meetings, the COE All Staff Kick Off, and the Stuff-the-Bus event.

Vice President Williams:

She attended the various stuff the bus packet making sessions, attended the Stuff-the-Bus event, SCZBA, and the COE All Staff Kick Off. She also shared her appreciation for Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent Business Services.

Trustee Acosta:

No report to share.

Trustee Van Allen:

No report to share.

Trustee Roth:

She shared her appreciation for Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent Business Services.

Trustee Larson:

He shared his appreciation for Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent Business Services. He attended the various stuff the bus packet making sessions, attended the Stuff-the-Bus event, SCZBA, the COE All Staff Kick Off, the webinar on Student Mental Health, and webinar on Educator housing.

12. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

The policy committee (Vice President Williams and Trustee Van Allen) shared that they are creating and working on a plan to update various policies.

13. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

All meetings scheduled and approved by the Board are listed below. Specific meetings may be removed or added if so determined, pending board approval.

August 27, 2025

County Board of Education - Special Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

September 4, 2025

County Board of Education - Special Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

September 18, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

October 16, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

November 20, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

December 18, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.